

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04941 311452Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 USSS-00 SY-05
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P R 311420Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8887
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4941

FOR TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BLUMENTHAL, W. MICHAEL)
SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: SUGGESTED
CHANGE IN KUWAIT SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 207224

1. JUST PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL CHANGING SCHEDULE OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S VISIT, I HAD MET WITH FINANCE MINISTER ABDUL RAHMAN AL-ATEEQI TO DISCUSS VISIT.
2. ATEEQI DID NOT SEE THE NEED TO CALL ON OFFICIALS OTHER THAN HIMSELF AND PERHAPS THE AMIR, IF IN COUNTRY, AND THE CROWN PRINCE. WE WILL WORK OUT SCHEDULE THROUGH MFA PROTOCOL.
3. WITH CHANGE IN SCHEDULE, OUR DISCUSSION RE FIRDAY TIMING OF ARRIVAL NOW IRRELEVANT, BUT ATEEQI DID INDICATE THAT, IF TREASURY SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE COULD BE DELAYED UNTIL 1500 HOURS, HE WOULD BE PLEASE TO HOST WHAT HE CALLED AN "INTIMATE LUNCH" FOR HIM AT HIS HOME. WHILE NOT OFFERING TO HOST A FUNCTION FRIDAY EVENING, ATEEQI SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ATTEND A DINNER I HAD PLANNED TO HOST IN SECRETARY'S HONOR.

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4. I FEAR THAT FURTHER REDUCTION OF BRIEF TIME FOR KUWAIT VISIT AS NOW SCHEDULED, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT ALLOWING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY DEMONSTRATION OF ARAB HOSPITALITY, MAY OFFEND SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE KUWAITIS, AMONG WHOM ATEEQI IS MOST THIN-SKINNED. WHILE KUWAITIS APPRECIATE THEY ARE NOT IN SAME LEAGUE WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, THEY

ARE CONSTANTLY COURTED BY MANY, INCLUDING USG (MOST RECENTLY IN CASE OF ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND), FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ON BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL BASIS. ALBEIT OFTEN RELUCTANT, KUWAITI RESPONSE TO OUR IMPORTUNING HAS BEEN COMMENDABLE (E.G., UNRWA, IMF GOLD SALES PROCEEDS, IFAD, IDA, WITTEVEEN FACILITY, AND, OF COURSE, AID TO EGYPT AND LEBANON). MOREOVER, ATEEQI SET MUCH STORE ON HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH BILL SIMON AND GERRY PARSKY AND WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH SIMILAR FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION TREASURY TEAM. AFTER ALL, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT KUWAITI CONNECTION WITH US IS FINANCIAL INVESTMENT - SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF \$20 BILLION FOREIGN ASSETS.

5. THEREFORE, WHILE I AM UNAWARE OF WHAT IS PLANNED FOR ARRIVAL AFTERNOON IN TEHRAN, I STRONGLY URGE SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL TO CONSIDER EXTENDING HIS BRIEF STAY IN KUWAIT ON OCT. 26 UNTIL 3 P.M. TO PERMIT ATEEQI TO EXTEND A LUNCHEON INVITATION. I BELIEVE THIS ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF A FEW HOURS WOULD PAY WORTHWHILE DIVIDENDS IN TERMS OF US RELATIONS WITH KUWIAT. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS IS POSSIBLE.

6. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND ATEEQI TO INFORM THEM OF CHANGE IN SCHEDULE AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER OCT. 25-26 IS ACCEPTABLE. WE
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SHALL ALSO SEEK TO OBTAIN NEW HOTEL RESERVATIONS. WILL ADVISE.

7. RESULTS OF MY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH ATEEQI AUG. 30 AND EMBASSY THOUGHTS ON SUBJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IN KUWAIT WILL BE PROVIDED IN SEPTTEL.
MAESTRONE

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